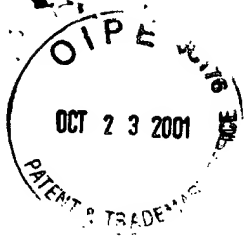


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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

October 23, 2001

Applicants: Satoshi MIKAMI et al
For: SKIN CONTACTING ARTICLE
Serial No.: 09/341 328 Group: 1615
Filed: July 6, 1999 Examiner: Pulliam
International Application No.: PCT/JP98/00080
International Filing Date: January 13, 1998
Atty. Docket No.: Kinoshita Case 209

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

AMENDMENT BEFORE FIRST OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

Prior to issuance of the first Office Action in the above-identified application, kindly enter the following:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 17 as shown on the attached marked-up page. Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121, a replacement page with the amended claim presented in clean form is also enclosed.

Please add new Claims 30-41 as shown on the enclosed pages.

REMARKS

In order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention, Applicants have added new Claims 30-41. These claims require that the treatment for forming the skin contacting agent of the present invention additionally contain a surface active agent or include a thickening agent. Support for these amendments can be found on originally filed specification page 3, line 34, through page 4, line 6. No new matter has been added.